

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. In the Office Action of July 9, 2004, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Rejected claims 1, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Walsh*.
- B.) Rejected claims 2, 3, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Walsh* in view of *Brody*.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and address the Examiner's disposition as follows:

A.) Rejection of claims 1, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Walsh*:

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection.

Claims 1 and 6 have each been amended to clarify the claimed positional relationships of the layers and the contacts and to correct informalities.

Regarding claims 1 and 4:

Referring to Applicants' Figure 3 for illustrative purposes, independent claim 1, as amended, claims an active matrix display. A device layer 38 is provided on a substrate 31. The device layer 38 comprises luminescent devices defining pixel units arrayed in a matrix, each luminescent device having an emitting area. A circuitry layer 32 is provided between the substrate 31 and the device layer 38. The circuitry layer 32 comprises pixel circuits for driving the respective luminescent devices, the pixel circuits defining the pixel units. Contacts 39 electrically connect each of the luminescent devices with a corresponding pixel circuit. The contacts 39 are not provided under the emitting area of the luminescent devices.

Thus, in claim 1, the contacts 39 are not provided under the emitting areas. As described in Applicants' specification, the claimed position of the contact(s) beneficially reduces the roughness of the circuitry layer, improves the flatness of the lower electrode, and prevents short circuiting compared to conventional devices. (Specification, page 4, line 17 - page 5, line 4).

This is clearly unlike *Walsh*, which fails to disclose or even suggest Applicants' claimed contacts that are not provided under an emitting area. Referring to *Walsh* Figure 2B, *Walsh* does not discuss its emitting areas, however, one having skill in the art would understand that *Walsh's* emitting areas would be located generally at a point where *Walsh's* electrode 118, electro-optical layer 31, and upper electrode 33 overlap. *Walsh* discloses a single common upper electrode 33 and a single common electro-optical layer 31 that are common to all of its pixels. Thus, as clearly shown in Figure 2B, all of *Walsh's* contacts 120 are provided under an emitting area, since

the contacts 120 are under a point at which *Walsh's* electrode 118, electro-optical layer 31, and upper electrode 33 overlap. Nowhere does *Walsh* even suggest that its pixels can have individual upper electrodes, and further nowhere does *Walsh* even suggest that its contacts 120 could be positioned other than under a point at which *Walsh's* electrode 118, electro-optical layer 31, and upper electrode 33 overlap.

Therefore, *Walsh* fails to disclose or even suggest claim 1.

Claim 4 depends directly or indirectly from claim 1 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Regarding claim 6:

Claim 6, as amended, also claims an active matrix display. A device layer 38 is provided on a substrate 31. The device layer 38 comprises luminescent devices defining pixel units, each luminescent device comprising a lower electrode 35, an upper electrode 36, and an organic layer 37 provided between the upper electrode 36 and the lower electrode 35. A circuitry layer 32 is provided between the substrate and the device layer 38. The circuitry layer comprises pixel circuits for driving the respective luminescent devices, the pixel circuits defining the pixel units. Each lower electrode 35 has a contact 39 electrically connecting the corresponding luminescent device with the corresponding pixel circuit. The upper electrode 36 is not provided over the contact 39.

Thus, in claim 6, the upper electrode 36 is not provided over the contact 39. As described in Applicants' specification, the claimed position of the contact(s) beneficially reduces the roughness of the circuitry layer, improves the flatness of the lower electrode, and prevents short circuiting compared to conventional devices. (Specification, page 4, line 17 - page 5, line 4).

This is clearly unlike *Walsh*, which fails to disclose or even suggest Applicants' claimed upper electrode that is not provided over a contact. Referring to *Walsh* Figure 2B, *Walsh* discloses a single common upper electrode 33 and a single common electro-optical layer 31 that are common to all of its pixels. Thus, as clearly shown in Figure 2B, all of *Walsh's* contacts 120 are provided under its common upper electrode 33. Nowhere does *Walsh* even suggest that its pixels can have individual upper electrodes, and further nowhere does *Walsh* even suggest that its upper electrodes 33 could be positioned other than over a contact 120.

Therefore, *Walsh* fails to disclose or even suggest claim 6.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

B.) Rejection of claims 2, 3, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Walsh* in view of *Brody*:

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection.

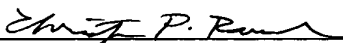
Independent claims 1 and 6 are allowable over *Walsh* as discussed above. *Brody* still fails to disclose or suggest the claimed contacts that are not provided under an emitting area or an upper electrode that is not provided over a contact. Therefore, *Walsh* in view of *Brody* still fails to disclose or suggest claims 1 and 6. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 6 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 6 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-7 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 45,034)
Christopher P. Rauch
SONNENSCHNEIN, NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box #061080
Wacker Drive Station - Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
Telephone 312/876-2606
Customer #26263
Attorneys for Applicant(s)



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 1, 2004.

Christopher P. Rauch (Reg. No. 45,034)
Christopher P. Rauch